

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 8364

USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, US, PO

SUBJECT: BIB/RFE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) LISBON 8267, (B) LISBON 8294, (C) LISBON 3782

SUMMARY: GOP'S RARET-DEUTSCHE WELLE CONTRACT REVIEW TEAM BEGAN ITS WORK DECEMBER 2. PROSPECTS CONTINUE TO BE FAIR FOR AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE IN EARLY 1977. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED USG-GOP EXCHANGE OF LETTERS RE CONTRACT WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN UP AT HIGHER LEVEL THAN GOP'S CONTRACT-STUDY COMMITTEE. GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

1. APPROACH CONFIRMED: GOP NEGOTIATOR MAJ. FIGUEIREDO IN NOVEMBER 30 AND DECEMBER 2 MEETINGS WITH EMBOFF REPEATED RARET CONTRACT STUDY APPROACH (REFTELS A AND B) AND GAVE FURTHER DETAILS ON WORK OF FIVE-MAN COMMITTEE.

2. MECHANICS: FIGUEIREDO MET WITH FULL COMMITTEE FOR FIRST TIME DECEMBER 2, WHEN HE DEVELOPED SPECIFIC TASKS FOR EACH MEMBER. GROUP MEMBERS WILL BE TACKLING DETAILS OF DRAFT CONTRACT WHILE FIGUEIREDO IS IN GERMANY DECEMBER 5 TO 15. (FIGUEIREDO INTENDS TO VISIT RFE HEADQUARTERS IN MUNICH ON DECEMBER 12. RARET MANAGER COSTA PEREIRA SAID SHE HAD INFORMED MUNICH.) UPON RETURN, CONFIDENTIAL

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FIGUEIREDO PLANS TO REVIEW PROGRESS OF STUDY AND DISCUSS

WITH MANUEL ALEGRE (SECSTATE FOR MASS COMMUNICATIONS IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE) TWO POSSIBLE PROCEDURES: (A) TAKING GOP POSITION ON CONTRACT DRAFT, AS DEFINED BY FIGUEIREDO'S COMMITTEE, DIRECTLY TO RARET BEFORE PUTTING IT BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THIS ROUTE, FAVORED BY FIGUEIREDO, WILL BE FEASIBLE IF GOP DIFFERENCES WITH THE DRAFT ARE RELATIVELY MINOR AND EASILY NEGOTIATED. FIGUEIREDO SAID THAT THIS PROCEDURE, OF PRESENTING AN AGREED-UPON CONTRACT READY FOR SIGNATURE TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WOULD BE THE FASTER. IN THIS WAY, THE MINISTERS WOULD BE LESS INCLINED TO HAGGLE OVER MINOR DETAILS. (B) PRESENTING THE GOP STUDY TEAM'S OPINION ON THE CONTRACT PACKAGE FIRST TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THEN TAKING A FULLY-APPROVED VERSION TO RARET. FIGUEIREDO THOUGHT THIS PROCESS WOULD TAKE MORE TIME. WHILE HE FAVORS THE FIRST PROCEDURE, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE FINAL DECISION WILL BE HIS. ALEGRE PRESUMABLY WILL HAVE THAT PREROGATIVE.

3. STUDY GROUP PARAMETERS: FIGUEIREDO OUTLINED THESE RESTRICTIONS ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF HIS COMMITTEE: (A) ALEGRE HAS NOT YET FULLY DEFINED WHAT ROLE FIGUEIREDO WILL HAVE BEYOND DRAWING UP THE GOP'S RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT CONTRACT. FIGUEIREDO INDICATED HE MIGHT BE IN CHARGE OF NEGOTIATIONS FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE FIVE-MAN GROUP'S WORK -- BUT HE MIGHT NOT. (B) FIGUEIREDO'S TERMS OF REFERENCE ARE THAT THE STUDY GROUP IS TO PREPARE POSITIONS ON CONTRACTS WITH TWO "PRIVATE" PORTUGUESE ENTITIES WHICH HANDLE TRANSMISSION FACILITIES, RARET FOR RFE AND IFA PORTUGUESA FOR DEUTSCHE WELLE. WITHOUT FULLY RESTATING HIS VIEWS AS GIVEN IN REFTEL C, PARA. 3, IT WAS CLEAR THAT FIGUEIREDO STILL HAS RESERVATIONS REGARDING A DIRECT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENT ON THE RARET CONTRACT. (C) THE COMMITTEE IS OPERATING BEHIND THE SCENES. FIGUEIREDO SAID THE GOP ORDER CREATING HIS TEAM WAS CLASSIFIED AND WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. REITERATING CONCERNS MENTIONED IN REFTEL C, HE SAID PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE EXPLOITED BY THOSE WHO OPPOSE MAINTAINING RFE TRANSMITTERS IN PORTUGAL.

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4. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS: EMBOFF ASKED IF DRAFT LETTER SPECIFYING BIB OR USG INVOLVEMENT TO FULFILL CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON APPROPRIATIONS AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS WAS INCLUDED IN STUDY GROUP'S PROGRAM. FIGUEIREDO SAID NO.

5. NEXT MOVES: FIGUEIREDO SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE BY ABOUT DECEMBER 21 A SENSE OF HIS COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS, AND A

FEELING AS TO WHETHER THESE COULD BE DISCUSSED WITH
RARET BEFORE THEY WERE GIVEN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.
HE MENTIONED THAT GOP IN RENEGOTIATED CONTRACT WOULD WANT
TO RECIEVE PAYMENTS IN DOLLARS, INSTEAD OF IN ESCUDOS AS
PROPOSED IN ARTICLE 17 OF THE RARET DRAFT. HE SAID HE
HAS AN ATTORNEY STUDYING THE LEGALITY OF RECEIVING DOLLARS
FROM RARET, A PORTUGUESE ENTITY, AND HE WAS OPTIMISTIC
THAT IT COULD BE DONE.

6. COMMENT: FIGUEIREDO'S TIMETABLE STRIKES EMBASSY AS
OPTIMISTIC, AND WE FORESEE A MORE DRAWN-OUT PROCESS GIVEN
BUREAUCRATIC INTERESTS INVOLVED ON GOP SIDE. UNLESS
DEPARTMENT OR BIB HAVE REASON TO PREFER SLOWER PACE,
EMBASSY PLANS PARALLEL APPROACH DIRECTLY WITH ALEGRE,
ESPECIALLY ON MATTER OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT
INVOLVEMENT.
PLEASE ADVISE.
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